

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Wehrbein and Bohlke.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Madam Chairman, could I ask Senator Beutler a question?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Because I haven't read the bill, obviously, as closely, as I haven't had the time, I was just ask...had a couple of questions I was curious about. As I understand it, the person who drills the well is the person that's responsible for registering. Is that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The person who owns the well will be responsible for registering, under this bill.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, because I don't live in irrigated country and most of the wells that are drilled are small wells and there are some small well drillers down there, I guess my curiosity is how these people are made aware of the fact that they inform the person they're drilling for that it's, in fact, his responsibility to drill...to register his well as if they drill a well.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I think the person who is drilling the well has the responsibility to inform the owner of that responsibility, and that would be done. They also have the forms and can help them fill out the forms. I don't anticipate a problem in that regard but if you...if you want to take a close look at those provisions, we can identify them for you and see if you have some suggestions.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, and the other question I had then, if the...in fact, if a well was drilled and the individual who was supposed to register it and didn't get around to get it done because he wasn't told, who then is held responsible? I mean, who is liable for the fine or whatever you have put in there? Is it the owner of the well?